Duty-free allowance for Indian citizens

*170. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the limit of duty-free allowance of Rs 1250|- was fixed for permitting the import of goods without duty by Indian citizens going abroad on a short visits; and

(b) whether in view of the erosion in the value of rupee, Government propose to enhance the limit imposed if so, by when and to what extent, and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The General Free Allowance under the Baggage Rules 1978 was fixed at Rs. 1250|- from 1st March, 1983.

(b) It is not considered desirable to enhance the limit of duty free allowance as this would have an adverse effect on indigenous industry and repatriation of foreign exchange into the country. This allowance is presently considered adequate.

ITDC hotel at Chandigarh

*171. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foundation stone for the construction of an ITDC hotel at Chandigarh was laid a few years back; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which construction work has not been started so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project could not be taken up for implementation due to non-finalisation of join Venture arrangements with the State Government.

Import of raw silk

*172. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that advance licences with duty exemption are being granted to the exporters of natural silk products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some exporters are importing raw silk under various other provisions of the Import Policies of 1983-84 and 1984-85 under the so called flexibility provisions; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Imports under Duty Exemption Scheme (Advance Licensing Scheme, are allowed for the purposes of manufacture of goods or replenishment of the materials used in the manufacture of goods or both for execution of export orders.

(c) Imports of raw silk against REP licences is not permissible under flexibility provisions of the current Import-Export policy.

(d) Does not arise.